

Nebraska Legislature is probably, in fact, is only an honorary position. It is not a position of any power. The change that has been mentioned here came from after the Committee studying all the various states in the union. We are the only state that does not by law or in effect have the Speaker making these decisions. We've got to give the Speaker of the Legislature some power. It will not be Roland Luedtke next year, it will be someone else. Who that will be this body will determine but if we do not have faith in that Speaker whoever he may be, however he may be chosen, then he should not be Speaker. That is what the whole decision making process the first day of the session is all about. Now, I think this is very important. This is the type of change that might institute some gradual leadership being developed. It will make the Speaker's job more important than just an honorary position and I think that is very very vital and necessary. That's the reason for this change. Not whether Senator Stoney has given out the trips correctly. That's not the issue at all, at all, at all. The issue here is whether or not we're going to move like all the other states in the union trying to give the Speaker some power. Now, if you can't trust the Speaker of the Legislature to handle these things correctly then you can't trust anybody in this body. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Simon calls for the previous question. Do I see five seconds? I do. Record your vote on that proposition. Have you all voted? Record.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 3 nays to cease debate Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Debate ceases. Senator Carsten on proposition number one.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Mr. President, in closing I'm going to be very brief. I think we've talked about this pretty thoroughly. The pros and cons of both sides. I do want to make one final statement though. This was not proposed with dissatisfaction, with the present Committee or the present leadership of the Committee. I think we've had full cooperation with the Chairman and the Committee as such. It is, as Senator Newell said, adding to the responsibilities of the Speaker which we look to for leadership and direction. It is only in that light with the participation on the national level that it is offered. With that I think everybody has made up their mind how they want to go and I would move for the adoption of number one Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Record your vote. Have you voted? Senator Carsten you're not proposing a rule change here, this is merely your report.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Yes.

PRESIDENT: So, we are not adopting a rule change.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Yes, it would be a rule change. I think it's classed as a rule change. I'll stand to be corrected but I believe it is.

PRESIDENT: I'm afraid you'll have to suspend the rule then because all rule changes have to go before the Rules Committee.